TRENDS

A3275-2

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 7, 1992 -- Railroad freight traffic is continuing to mirror the nation's slow but steady recovery from the economic recession, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported today.

For the week ended May 2, railroads originated a total of 332,100 carloads of freight, up 2.7 percent from the comparable 1991 week. Loadings increased 2.8 percent in the West and 2.6 percent in the East.

"It is reassuring that the gains in rail traffic are virtually across the board, with the major exception being coal," said Dr. Harvey A. Levine, vice president of the AAR's economics and finance department.

"Coal is down 2.0 percent cumulatively, largely because a mild winter has left utilities with relatively high stockpiles of coal. Excluding coal traffic, railroad carloadings increased by 5.0 percent over the first 18 weeks of this year, with motor vehicles, up 17.3 percent, leading the charge," Dr. Levine said.

Railroads also moved an estimated 20.5 billion ton-miles of freight, up 4.1 percent. Intermodal volume, which is not included in the carload total, jumped 12.2 percent from the comparable 1992 week, totalling 130,205 trailers or containers.

For the first 18 weeks of 1992, the AAR reported that railroads had originated 5,763,615 carloads of freight, up 2.2 percent from the comparable 1991 week. Ton-mileage was estimated at 367.2 billion, up 4.9 percent. And intermodal volume totalled 2,211,066 trailers and containers, up 8.2 percent from 1991.

Railroads reporting to the AAR account for 94 percent of rail carloads and 97 percent of intermodal traffic.

(more)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 2, 1992

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING MAY 2, 1992	COMPARISON WITH SAME WEEK OF 1991	CHANGE	COMPARISON WITH PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	23,329	22,841	2.1 %	23,984	-2.7 %
Farm Products, Ex. Grain	1,913	1,571	21.8	1,659	15.3
Metallic Ores	18,814	18,477	1.8	16,262	15.7
Coal	121,331	126,462	-4.1	120,634	0.6
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	14,628	14,661	-0.2	14,759	-0.9
Nonmetallic Minerals	8,683	7,862	10.4	9,426	-7.9
Grain Mill Products	9,911	9,997	-0.9	9,830	0.8
Food & Kindred Products	9,288	8,877	4.6	9,054	2.6
Primary Forest Products	9,043	7,748	16.7	9,100	-0.6
Lumber & Wood Products	6,362	6,171	3.1	6,063	4.9
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	10,702	9,805	9.1	10,564	1.3
Chemicals	30,781	27,907	10.3	31,438	-2.1
Petroleum Products	5,292	4,538	16.6	5,481	-3.4
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	9,927	9,121	8.8	9,326	6.4
Coke	5,245	4,468	17.4	5,317	-1.4
Metals & Products	10,666	10,267	3.9	10,238	4.2
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	19,286	17,149	12.5	16,298	18.3
Waste & Scrap Materials	9,284	8,093	14.7	8,753	6.1
All Other Carloads	7,615	7,417	2.7	6,952	9.5
Total	**332,100**	**323,432**	**2.7 %**	**325,138**	**2.1 %**

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES

TRAFFIC	WEEK ENDING MAY 2, 1992 1992	1991	CHANGE	CUMULATIVE: 18 WEEKS ENDING MAY 2, 1992 1992	1991	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	**332,100**	**323,432**	**2.7 %**	**5,763,615**	**5,639,092**	**2.2 %**
Intermodal Traffic Originated						
Trailers	65,219	60,757	7.3	1,084,360	1,057,449	2.5
Containers	64,986	55,318	17.5	1,126,706	986,279	14.2
Total	**130,205**	**116,075**	**12.2**	**2,211,066**	**2,043,728**	**8.2**
Estimated Ton-Miles						
Class I Railroads (Billions)	**20.5**	**19.7**	**4.1 %**	**367.2**	**350.1**	**4.9 %**

NOTES: Effective with Week 15, CSX Transportation figures include RFP. CSXT's traffic for prior weeks is the sum of CSXT's and RFP's traffic. Traffic interchanged between these roads prior to Week 15 has not been excluded from "received" traffic.

Carloadings are estimated for: Week 18, 1992 - GTW & TM; Week 14, 1992 - GTW.

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